

# THE CITIZEN

A non-partisan family newspaper published every Thursday by  
BEREA PUBLISHING CO. (Incorporated)

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Entered at the postoffice at Berea, Ky., as second class mail matter.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year, \$1.50; six months, 85 cents; three months, 50 cents. Payable in advance.

Foreign Advertising Representative, The American Press Association.

## The Educational Amendments

Interest is now being aroused thruout the State of Kentucky over two proposed amendments to the Constitution which are to be voted upon at the November election.

One amendment provides for the removal of the State Superintendent from politics. Instead of being a political candidate on the ticket with the candidates for other state offices, he is to be chosen because of professional efficiency with a view to serving the highest interests of the children of Kentucky.

The second amendment provides for setting aside ten per cent of the school money of the State to supplement salaries and school improvements of counties whose funds are inadequate.

These two amendments should challenge the attention of every true Kentuckian. The State of Kentucky has stood too long near the bottom of the states in educational rank. We have paid too much attention, in the past, to the development of Bluegrass farms, fox hunting, horse racing, mining and lumbering, and too little attention to the education of our children. We have too long maintained a provincial life in the different counties of the State. Nothing is more wholesome than local pride, but nothing is more detrimental to the best interests of the whole than the "better than thou" or the "more prosperous than thou" attitude of a local community or county.

Now back to the point at issue. The State Superintendent has been a political plum to be plucked by a "deserving Democrat" or a "deserving Republican." It is one of the aggregation of political offices that are divided up among the party aspirants of the ruling dynasty. He cannot succeed himself in office, hence he spends the first two years of his term in getting acquainted, and the second two years of his term trying to get the office of Secretary of State or some other position. In the meantime, he gives a smattering to the children of the State.

The adoption of the constitutional amendment that would make the State Superintendent an appointive executive is fraught with danger, because in many counties the removal of the county superintendent from politics has not been the "God send" that some thought it would be.

At the present time some counties are tying up the appointment of the superintendent with politics. This unsatisfactory state of affairs can be greatly relieved by placing the election of the County Board on some other date than the regular November election and, so far as possible, the appointment of the County Superintendent on a different year from the county election primary.

The present system of choosing the County Superintendent is not a failure, but certain weaknesses as to time and method of making the appointment should be remedied in order to secure greater success in the operation of the law. By all means the State Superintendent should be removed from politics, but unless the method of choosing the superintendent is definitely worked out before the election, the amendment will be in danger of defeat. The people are getting tired of personal appointments to pay political debts, and if the choosing of the State Superintendent is largely left in the hands of the Governor or a group of men under the direct influence of the dominating party, then the system of appointment will be just as bad as the system of popular election.

We have had instances of National Commissioners of Education being appointed by the President, to pay an obligation to a group of individuals, or to a state for certain political favors. If such a course is ever pursued by a President of a Great Nation like ours, you can expect as much and more from the Governor of a State.

Unless a safe and unquestionable method of choosing the State Superintendent is announced before the election, the amendment will be lost. The second amendment, which provides for a ten percent general relief fund, will find its greatest opponents among the richer counties who can operate their schools on a very low tax assessment while other counties cannot raise sufficient money with the maximum levy.

This second amendment is a great step forward, and every voter in Kentucky who wishes to see the children of less wealthy counties given a chance for adequate school education should support it.

There are war decorations, and then there are the blisters on the hands of the amateur gardener.

The Turks and the Russians have signed a treaty, which means more ultimate trouble for civilization.

Instead of censoring the moving pictures the reformers can make a hit by censoring the unmovable prices.

That machine to detect bars is a great invention if it will show up the man who talks one way and votes the other.

The frame of Yap is destined to subside before most of the original inhabitants knew enough about it to enjoy it.

Abbreviated styles indicate that women have at last decided that they are more attractive than a lot of clothes.

Wooden eyebrows for women are now a fad. They will grow right out of a good many heads without any coaxing at all.

A missionary charges that the press agitates the Japs, and he might also have said that the Japs agitate some of the press.

A political enemy is one who can say anything he chooses about you without having to back it up with facts or lies.

A studious young American would be one who would refuse to go to a ball game so that he could read up on sockeye salmon.

Sugar cane planters in Jamaica are now asking for government help. Last year the consumers were asking for government help.

There's no news in the announcement that the income tax collections for 1920 exceeded those of 1919. Tax-payers knew it long ago.

One reason why a lamb on the plains costs only 75 cents while the profiteer sells a lamb chop for 90 cents is that it's easier to catch the lamb.

Revising an ancient proverb, one-half of the world does not know what the other half is doing, but it is trying its level best to find out.

Psychological discrimination may be useful occasionally to determine whether irreconcilability represents a public policy or a state of mind.

The man who has been granted a patent on a deck of playing cards may have discovered a way of preventing the fifty-second card from getting lost.

The Venezuelan minister tells the National Association of Manufacturers that money can be made in Venezuela. The trouble is you must go there to make it.

Inroads on the railroad revenue of the country are also being made by motortruck handbills who deprive a freight train of its cargo before it reaches its destination.

Do you remember the old-time butcher, with a mustache like a worn-out paint brush, who "threw in" a soup bone and some dog meat and gave you a large wiener?

That son who found his father in the act of attempting suicide by hanging, and cut him down, letting him fall 50 feet, should have been more careful. He might have killed his poor father.

## The Majesty of the Law

A Tragedy, in Three Acts  
By Alton Baker

### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Bootlegger A Judge  
Moonshiner Moonshiner's Daughter  
Sheriff and Deputies Sheriff's Wife  
Musicians

### Act I.

Scene I. Morning. The Forest. A moonshine still.  
Enter Moonshiner, solus.

Moonshiner: I wonder why my friend and co-worker should linger thus when Phoebus glads the morn? For we were wont to greet the morning star Together, cup in hand,—but here he comes. Good morning, friend. I greet thy tardy steps With cheerful mien, but deep within my soul I feel the dim suggestion of a fear.

Enter Bootlegger.

Bootlegger: Well mayst thou fear, for at the middle watch Of sable night a messenger arrived Post haste to me and whispered in the dark Such tidings as it liked me not to hear, For it would seem that there are those in pow'r And holding office at this present time, Who wish us ill; and shortly will appear Arm'd with authority and naked steel To confiscate our whisky and our still.

Moonshiner: I do perceive that thou art speaking sooth, But who are these misguided, bold bad men?

Bootlegger: A Sheriff and a Judge and Deputies.

Exeunt.

Scene II. A room in an inn. A Judge, Sheriff, and Deputies at breakfast.

Judge: I tell thee, I am thirstier than thou. Full twenty days have dragged their weary lengths Since aught of comfort hath abstrus'd my throat, And not one jot nor tittle of my thirst Will I abate, but I will on with thee, And on and on, until I find a drink.

Sheriff: Thou ravest. In thy mad desire to steal My lawful perquisites thou dost forget The seven quarts I stole and shared with thee A week ago. Thus doth ingratitude Corrupt judicial nature and destroy Harmonious accord and equity.

Judge: Thou liest in thy throat. The seven quarts Thou owest me, and I but took what was mine own.

Sheriff: A pox upon thy words. My parched throat Methinks could swallow such a flood as pours Across Niagara's rocks, were water booze.

First Deputy: Peace, Judge, and Sheriff both. This silly strife Can lead to naught but pain and drier throats.

Second Deputy: Thou speakest well. It doth appear That we are keepers of a pair of babes.

Sheriff: Peace, varlets, forward march. And ere the sun Hath touched the zenith on his westward way We'll wet our whistles, I devoutly pray.

Exeunt.

Scene III. A moonshine still being dismantled, Moonshiner working frantically, Bootlegger assisting.

Enter Moonshiner's Daughter.

Daughter: O, Haste and hide the worm! The verdant hills Re-echo to the tramp of armed men, And even now the joyful birds have hushed Their morning songs and hark with open throat To these invaders of their sylvan grove.

Moonshiner: What way is their advance, and in what force?

Daughter: They're coming down the wind, but I do fear That they will circle us, and then their sense Of smell, which hath the keenness of a hound's, Will lead them straightway up the wind to us. Their numbers are not great, but what they lack In numbers they make up in thirst and zeal.

Moonshiner: Ah, woe is me! Ev'n as we speak they come!

Enter from three sides Judge, Sheriff, and Deputies.

Sheriff: Ho! Stand, upon the peril of your lives! Bind ye them all, and search the woods around That not one guilty drop may 'scape our eyes, (Whispering) But let no man presume to find the worm.

Judge: Now let us all unite to search among The rocks and trees for what they may conceal.

They scatter and search, leaving the prisoners.

### Act II.

Scene I. Same, prisoners on stage, bound.

Enter Judge with jug at one side of stage, Sheriff at other with large gourd. Sheriff drinks.

Judge: (Drinking) O, potent distillation of the corn, In all the world there's naught refoecillates And brightens up the legal mind as thou. I call to mind the days of olden time When courts dispensed their justice 'twix their drinks, And thinking thus, I am persuaded well, That after all the old days were the best. Now I do feel my better nature rise And vanquish that which made me mean and small, And I could take them to any heart, who break The senseless laws of prim society. But I must weep when that I think upon My father dead and gone before my time, And all their ancestors back to the flood, For they are dead! O, dead a million times In that they never knew what moonshine is! (Weeps).

Sheriff: O, learned Judge, had I thy gift of speech And flow of words, I'd never stop to weep, But I would spend loquacious hours in praise Of these good alchemists, who in our view, Take all the world and turn it into gold! I pray thee, speak again and glad mine-ears With sweet poetic talk. My red necked sire Thought not on culture and scholastic lore, But ever worshipped Mammon. And with ear Attuned to rude barbaric rhymes and tunes I sing for ever in my untrained mind.

Judge: (Drinking) I do recall a sweet convivial song, Which I will sing if I do have the voice, But cobwebs have beset my throat of late And if I can contrive to wash them down, (Drinks) I'll try a stave or two. But what is this? (Sees girl). Ah, beautiful damsel, who would bind thee thus? Thy tender limbs were surely fashioned forth From flesh of baby angels; and thy bloom Would grace the fairest rose of Paradise. (Cuts her bonds). I wonder how thou dost contrive to keep The thieving bees from those red lips of thine!

Sheriff: I fain would hear thee sing, O, learned Judge, The song thou promised but a moment hence.

Judge: Sweet damsel, I must sing for him or we Will have no peace, for he is music mad.

Sits down beside girl and sings.

"Wish I was in Tennessee,

Sittin' on a rail,

One arm around my true love's neck

And a rabbit by the tail."

Music, fiddle and banjo.

Sheriff sits down on other side of girl.

(Continued on page eight)

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